



Butler County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan

January 1, 2009 - December 31st, 2011

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Community Team:

The Butler County Community Team is a multi-disciplinary group that includes law enforcement (county and city), criminal justice professionals, school administrators, school guidance counselors, mental health professionals, and representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services. The team meets monthly as the LB 1184 Team.

Specific team members are:

Name	Agency	Address	Phone/Email
Bo Botelho	Butler County Attorney's Office	455 N. 5 th St, David City, NE 68632	402-367-7040
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Trisha Pinneo	David City Elementary School	826 E Street, David City, NE 68632	tpinneo@esu7.org 402-367-3779

Community Planning Decision Point Analysis

Data Points	Total Population (*2000)	Juvenile Population (**2007)
Total Population	8,767	1,967
Male	4,472	1,007
Female	4,295	960
White	8,680	1,887
Hispanic	220 (a)	55
Black	17	13
American Indian	9	3
Asian	9	9
Native Hawaiian	9	Not reported
Other	36	3
Juveniles Arrested		56
Juveniles Detained		2
Juveniles Prosecuted		50
Juveniles Enrolled in Diversion		6
Juveniles Placed on Probation		49
YRTC-Kearney		1
YRTC-Geneva		1

Source of Data:

(*) 2000 U.S. Census

(**) OJJDP/NCJS Juvenile Populations Report 1990-2007

(a) Hispanics may be of any race, so are also included in other applicable race categories.

System Decision Point: ARREST CITATION

Responsibility: Police/Law Enforcement

Statute Reference: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)

Decision: *Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused is the one that committed the offense. - Evidence supports statutory elements required to prove offense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age. - Youth's prior involvement with law enforcement. - Type of offense. - Risk of continued criminal behavior. - Youth and/or families perceived status in the community. - Officer discretion.
<p>Notes: Officers/Deputies have some discretion in deciding whether or not to cite; however, some offenses mandate that a citation be issued or an arrest be made. While there may be some in the community who would argue that whether or not a juvenile is charged with an offense depends on what standing the family has in the community, there is no evidence that would support that.</p>	

Decision: *Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seriousness of offense. - Type of offense. - Is there a warrant? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of juvenile's cooperation with law enforcement. - Victim's desires.
<p>Notes: In most cases law enforcement will cite and release to parents. In some cases no citation is issued, but rather investigative reports are forwarded to the county attorney for decision on whether to prosecute or not.</p>	

Decision: *Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release* Statute Reference: NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), and (3)

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per NRS 43-248 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate risk to juvenile. - Immediate/short-term risk to public. - Seriousness of perceived offense. - Extent to which parent or other responsible adult is available to take responsibility for juvenile. - Is there a warrant? - Availability of pre-adjudication detention options.
<p>Notes: The decision is policy driven. If a juvenile is cited/arrested for an offense, every effort is made to ensure that the juvenile is released only to a parent/guardian. Obviously, there are exceptions to every rule, and on occasion it is necessary to release the juvenile to another adult (i.e. aunt, uncle).</p>	

System Decision Point: INITIAL DETENTION

Responsibility: State of Nebraska Probation
Statute Reference: NRS §§ 43-250 (3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01

Decision: *Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk assessment outcome. - Accessibility of placement options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parents/Guardians b. Emergency Shelter. c. Staff Secure Facility. d. Secure Detention Facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juvenile's attitude/cooperation. - Parental attitude/cooperation. - Seriousness of offense.
<p>Notes: The formal determining factors are sufficient. Butler County contracts Lancaster County, NE for both secure and staff-secure detention needs.</p>	

System Decision Point: CHARGE JUVENILE

Responsibility: Butler County Attorney

Statute Reference: NRS § 43-274 (1), § 43-275, § 43-276

Decision: *Whether to prosecute juvenile.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Likelihood of successful prosecution. b. Factors under NRS 43-276: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable. ii. Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated. iii. Motivation for commission of offense. iv. Age of juvenile and co-offenders. v. Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior. vi. Juvenile's sophistication and maturity. vii. Juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts. viii. Whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile. ix. Whether best interests of juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority. x. Victim's inclination to participate in mediation. xi. "Such other matters as the county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility for Juvenile Diversion program. - Parent's cooperation in accepting responsibility for juvenile's offense.
<p>Notes: Juveniles who are first-time will normally be offered the option of enrolling in the juvenile diversion program. It is difficult to determine whether or not a juvenile has previously, or is currently, enrolled in a juvenile diversion program.</p>	

Decision: *Whether juvenile should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seriousness of offense. - Prior history in Juvenile Court. - Factors under NRS 43-276. - Age 	
Notes: The offense that the juvenile is charged with largely determines which court the case is filed with. The county attorney reviews the juvenile's prior criminal history and also consider the juvenile's likely response to intervention efforts of juvenile court.	

Decision: *Offense for which juvenile should be charged.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Factual basis for charge. - Charge must be supported by sufficient evidence to establish proof beyond a reasonable doubt. 	
Notes: The county attorney reviews investigative reports prior to deciding what, if anything, the juvenile will be charged with.	

System Decision Point: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION

Responsibility: Butler County Attorney

Statute Reference: NRS § 43-274 (1), § 43-275, § 43-276

Decision: *Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of juvenile. - Immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the person or property of another. - Whether the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability of parent/guardian to effectively control juvenile in a home setting. - The availability of electronic monitoring.
Notes: Very few juvenile cases result in the continued detention of the juvenile.	

System Decision Point: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS §43-256

Decision: *Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute.	- Probable cause is determined by Judge at time of detention, or via affidavit on weekends/holidays.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

System Decision Point: COMPETENCY EVALUATION

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS §43-258(1) (b)

Decision: *Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute.	- Judge may place juveniles in hospital under HHS supervision in 3(c) cases.
Notes: No comments for this section	

Decision: *Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by the Court. - Opinion of a physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, community mental health program, or psychologist.	- Defense attorney may request a competency evaluation if he/she feels the juvenile is not capable of understanding the proceedings.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

System Decision Point: ADJUDICATION

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS §43-279(2) and (3)

Decision: *Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by NRS § 43-247.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal sufficiency of the evidence presented during the adjudication hearing. - Whether the juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (<i>or “pleads” to the charge(s).</i>) - Residency. - Age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None reported.
Notes: No comments for this section	

Decision: *Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear – see also §29-2261 (2)).*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As outlined in statute. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PDI’s are ordered in a minority of juvenile cases.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

Decision: *Whether to order OJS evaluation*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As outlined in statute. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An OJS evaluation will be ordered if there is a likelihood of out-of-home placement. - If the Judge is seeking information specific to educational or mental health needs, he/she will order an OJS evaluation.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

Decision: *Whether to order a PDI and an OJS evaluation.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- None reported.	- Judge is more likely to first order a PDI, and then if necessary follow-up with an OJS evaluation.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

System Decision Point: DISPOSITION

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS §43-286(1)

Decision: *Whether to place a juvenile on probation.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute.	- Judge would prefer that the juvenile remains at home, under the care and supervision of parents/guardians.
Notes: The availability of probation services may determine the probationary status of a juvenile.	

Decision: *Whether to commit the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services.*

I Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- If juvenile is at least twelve (12) years of age.	- Family dynamics may dictate that the juvenile be placed with OJS.
Notes: Placement of juvenile with OJS may be based on the need/availability of services for the juvenile and family.	

Decision: *Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit to HHS or OJS.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute. - No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents or guardians.	- Judge may exercise dual supervision for a juvenile where need for additional services and support is apparent.
Notes: A good working relationship exists between probation and HHS.	

System Decision Point: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

Responsibility: Probation

Statute Reference: NRS § 29-2266

Decision: *Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation. - Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-criminal violation means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving traffic violations. Failure to report to his or her probation officer. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer. Failure to work regularly or attend training school. Failure to notify his or her probation officer of change of address or employment. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered. Failure to perform community service as directed. Failure to pay fines, court costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06 	<p>.</p>
<p>Notes: Probation rarely imposes administrative sanctions on juvenile probationers.</p>	

System Decision Point: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION

Responsibility: County Attorney

Statute Reference: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)

Decision: *Whether to revoke probation.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute.	- Probation will make motion for revocation on issuance of a citation.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

System Decision Point: MODIFICATION/REVOCATION OF PROBATION

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)

Decision: *Whether to modify or revoke probation.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- As outlined in statute.	- Judge is more likely to modify probation.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

System Decision Point: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION

Responsibility: Juvenile Court Judge

Statute Reference: NRS § 43-2,102

Decision: *Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs. - Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promotes disrespect for law. - Whether failure to set aside 	- None reported.

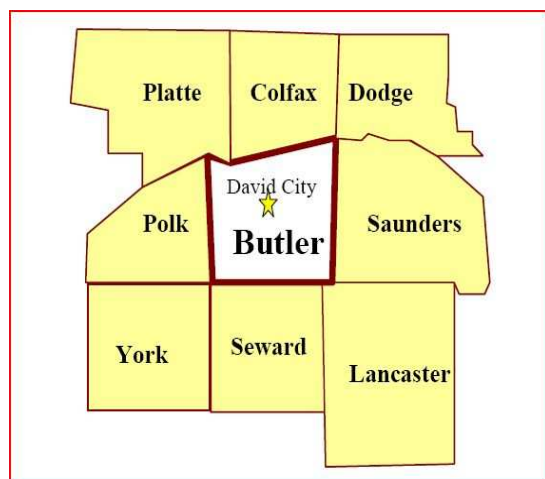
adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.	
Notes: No comments for this section.	

Decision: *Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS.*

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
- Presumably the same as those for probation under NRS 43-2,103..	- None reported.
Notes: No comments for this section.	

Section IV

Community Socio-Economics



Butler County, located in east-central Nebraska, consists of 584 square miles of land area, and 0.8 miles of water area. The population density for Butler County is 14 people per square mile. The county seat of David City is approximately 50 miles northwest of Lincoln and is the midpoint (75 miles) between Omaha and Grand Island. The county is served by major Nebraska Highways 15 and 92, and U.S. Highway 30.

Data from the U.S. Census of 2000 revealed that there 8,767 people, 3,426 households, and 2,350 families residing in Butler County. There were

3,901 housing units at an average density of 7 per square mile.

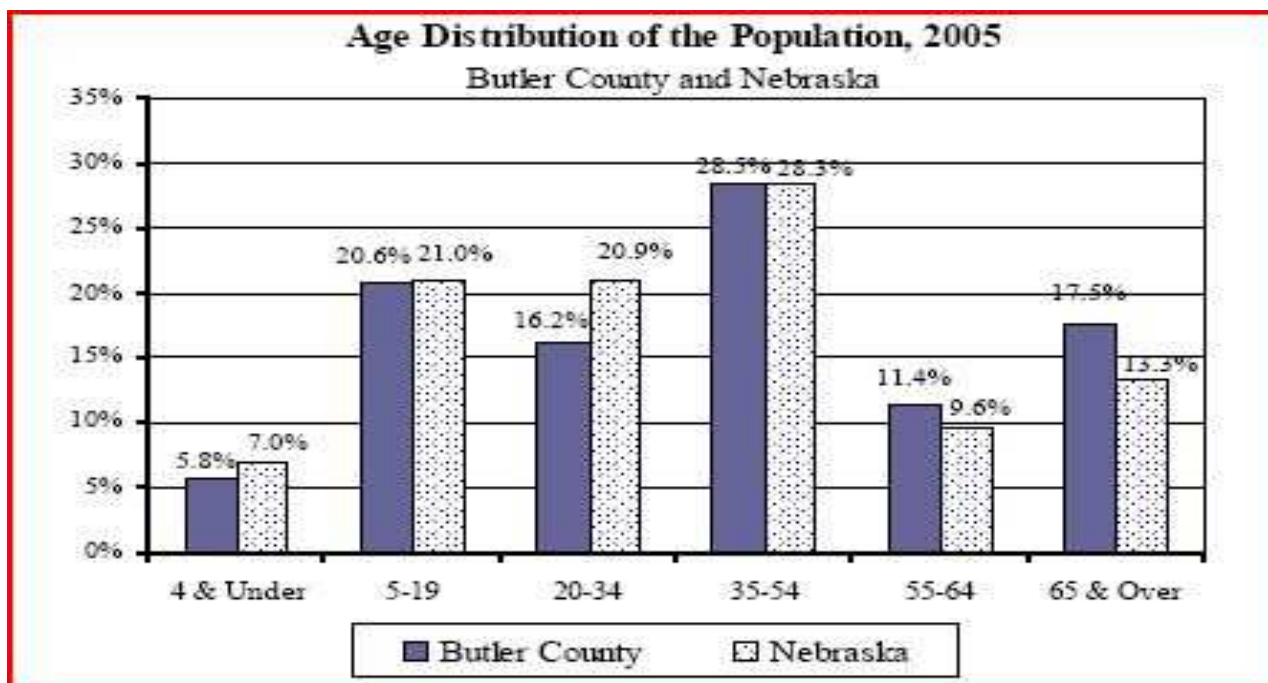
In the county the population was spread out with 27.90% under the age of 18, 6.60% from 18 to 24, 25.30% from 25 to 44, 22.50% from 45 to 64, and 17.70% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 38.8 years. For every 100 females there were 104.10 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over there were 101.20 males.

Butler County is a rural community with 1 city and 11 villages, as follows:

Butler County Townships/Villages	Number of Residents	Number of Households	Number of Families	% of the population under 18
Abie	108	40	27	33.3
Bellwood	446	185	120	26.2
Brainard	351	148	100	28.5
Bruno	112	49	31	22.4
David City	2,597	1,082	641	26.2
Dwight	259	116	64	27.8
Garrison	67	27	14	35.8
Linwood	118	45	26	33.1
Octavia	145	47	36	31.7
Rising City	386	158	103	25.9
Surprise	44	18	12	27.3
Ulysses	276	107	78	29.3

Age Distribution of the Population:

The following charts compare the age distribution of population for Butler County and Nebraska as a whole. The population of Butler County is significantly older than that of Nebraska as a whole. The median age for Butler County residents in 2005 was 41.5 years of age compared to 36.2 years of age for residents of Nebraska as a whole.



2005 Age Distribution				
	Population		Percent	
	Nebraska	Butler County	Nebraska	Butler County
4 & Under	122,049	509	7.0%	5.8%
5-19	366,548	1,800	21.0%	20.6%
20-34	366,009	1,409	20.9%	16.2%
35-54	493,630	2,483	28.3%	28.5%
55-64	167,175	990	9.6%	11.4%
65 & Over	231,803	1,529	13.3%	17.5%
Total	1,747,214	8,720	100.0%	100.0%
Median Age	36.2	41.5		

Source: Age Group, Median Age, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Ancestry/Race:

Major ancestry groups of Butler County are:

Group	Percentage
German	32%
Czech	28%
Irish	8%
English	5%
Polish	4%
Dutch	3%
Swedish	3%

The majority of the population of Butler County is non-Hispanic White (97.6%). The remaining 2.4% of the population is comprised of Hispanics, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asians, and other races.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Educational Attainment:

Population 25 and under:

Level	County	NE	U.S.
High School Graduate (including G.E.D.)	41.6%	31.3%	28.6%
Some college, or Associate's Degree	28.3%	31.6%	27.4%
Bachelor's Degree	10.3%	16.5%	15.5%
Master's, Professional, or Doctorate Degree	3.3%	7.3%	8.9%

Health Care:

The **Butler County Health Care Center** is a 25-bed critical access medical and surgical facility offering a full-range of inpatient and outpatient services to the residents of Butler County.

The **Butler County Health Clinic, P.C.** is staffed by five family practice physicians, and one physician's assistant, and served by 30 medical professionals. Services available include routine health care, well-baby checks, minor surgical procedures, prenatal care, diagnostic services, and immunizations.

St. Joseph's Villa, Inc. is a 58-bed skilled nursing facility, and **David Place** is an 86-bed skilled nursing facility.

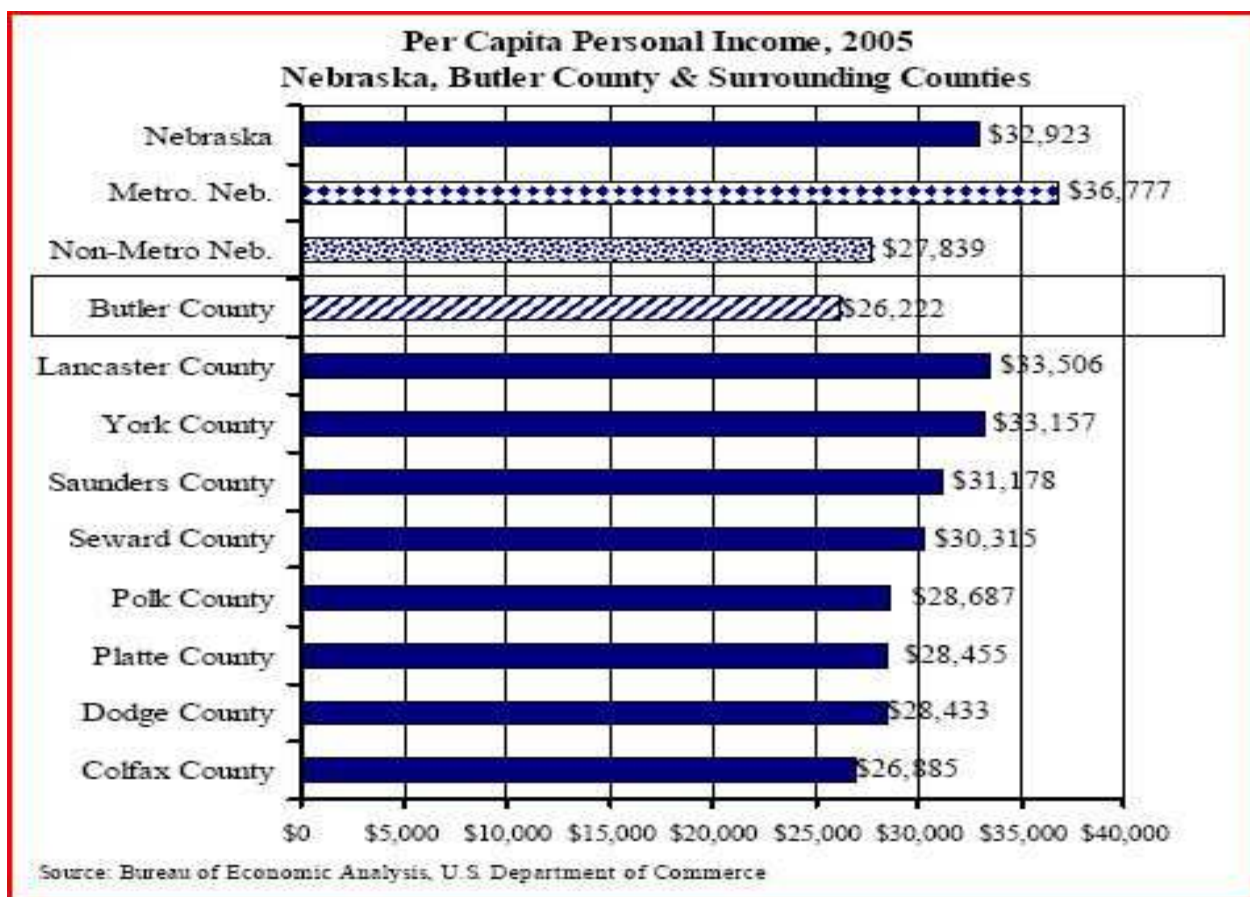
Housing:

There were 3,246 households out of which 33.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 59.90% were married couples living together, 5.70% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.40% were non-families. 28.30% of all households were made up of individuals and 14.40% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.53 and the average family size was 3.13.

Income (Per Capita and Median Family)

Per Capita Personal Income

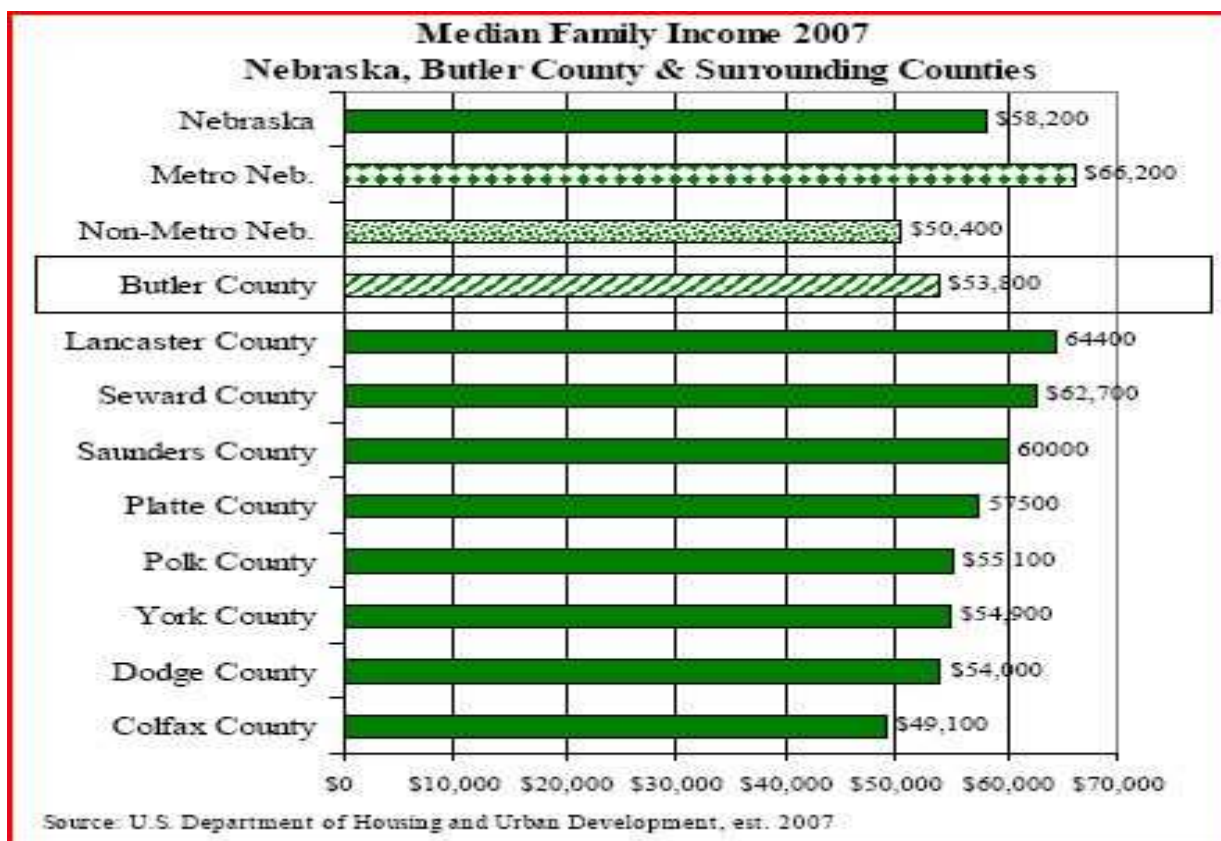
Per capita personal income in Butler County was \$26,222 in 2005, the last year for which such data are available. Butler County's per capita income is \$6,701 or 20.4% less than that for Nebraska as a whole (\$32,933), \$10,555 or 28.7% less than metropolitan Nebraska (\$36,777), and \$1,617 or 5.8% less than non-metropolitan Nebraska (\$27,839).



Median Family Income

Median family income

Median family income provides a different perspective of income levels in Nebraska, Butler County, and the surrounding area. Median family income is the midpoint in the ranked distribution of the sum income for all family members 15 years of age and older. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates family median income based on 2000 Census data updated with a combination of Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Divisional data. Median family income in Butler County was estimated to be \$53,800 in 2007. This amount is \$4,400 or 7.6 percent less than the median family income for Nebraska as a whole (\$58,200), \$12,400 or 18.7 percent less than metropolitan Nebraska (\$66,200), and \$3,400 or 6.7 percent greater than non-metropolitan median family income (\$50,400) in 2007.

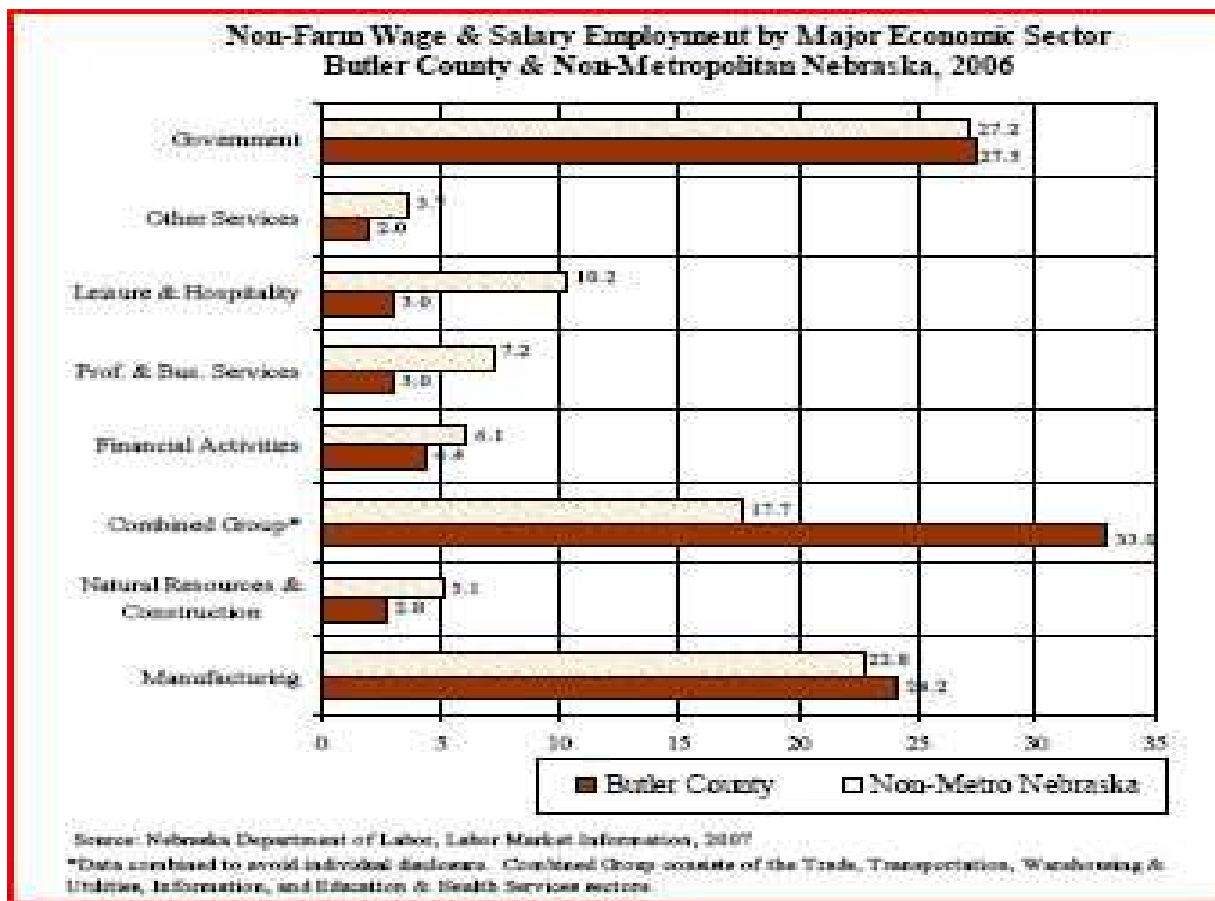


Labor Force and Employment:

The table displayed below compares the distribution of non-farm wage and salary (W&S) employment by major economic sector in Butler County with the non-metropolitan distribution. Non-metropolitan Nebraska is defined as Nebraska minus the seven metropolitan counties of Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, and Washington. Non-farm wage and salary employment consists of the following 11 sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Natural Resources & Construction
- Trade (Retail & Wholesale)
- Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (TWU)
- Information
- Financial Activities
- Professional & Business Services (PBS)
- Education & Health Services
- Leisure & Hospitality
- Other Services (except Public)
- Government

The following sectors have been combined: Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities, Information, and Education & Health Services



Unemployment in Butler County increased 12.6 percent (15 people) between 1996 and 2006. Those classified as unemployed decreased 2.9 percent (-4 people) during the 2000-2006 time period. Persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The Butler County unemployment rate was 2.8 percent in 2006, significantly lower than metropolitan Nebraska (3.3 percent), non-metropolitan Nebraska (3.1 percent), and Nebraska as a whole (3.2 percent).

Residence and Work Flow Patterns

The two charts below illustrate the Commute Out and Commute In times for Butler County workers. These data were compiled from Census 2000 responses to the long-form (sample) questions concerning where people worked. Table 3 data show 43.2 percent of the working population (1,859 people) living in Butler County leave the county to work. The most common place of employment outside of Butler County is Platte County (19.2 percent or 824 people) followed by Lancaster, Seward, and Colfax counties.

Commute Out			
Live in Butler County - Work Elsewhere (2000)			
Where Live	Where Work	Count	%
Butler Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	2,443	56.8%
Butler Co. NE	Platte Co. NE	824	19.2%
Butler Co. NE	Lancaster Co. NE	282	6.6%
Butler Co. NE	Seward Co. NE	260	6.04%
Butler Co. NE	Colfax Co. NE	179	4.16%
Butler Co. NE	Saunders Co. NE	59	1.37%
Butler Co. NE	Douglas Co. NE	58	1.35%
Butler Co. NE	Polk Co. NE	47	1.09%
Butler Co. NE	Dodge Co. NE	43	1.00%
Butler Co. NE	York Co. NE	30	0.70%
Butler Co. NE	Hall Co. NE	15	0.35%
Butler Co. NE	Hamilton Co. OH	8	0.19%
Butler Co. NE	Madison Co. NE	8	0.19%
Butler Co. NE	Saline Co. NE	6	0.14%
Butler Co. NE	Washington Co. NE	6	0.14%
Butler Co. NE	Hamilton Co. IA	4	0.09%
Butler Co. NE	Merrick Co. NE	4	0.09%
Butler Co. NE	Buffalo Co. NE	3	0.07%
Butler Co. NE	Harrison Co. IA	3	0.07%
Butler Co. NE	Sarpy Co. NE	3	0.07%
Butler Co. NE	Thayer Co. NE	3	0.07%
Butler Co. NE	Other In-State	0	0.00%
Butler Co. NE	Other Out-of-State	14	0.33%
	Total:	4,302	
Living inside county, but working outside:		1,859	43.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Journey to Work, 2000

People also commute from other counties of residence to work in Butler County. The table below shows that 15.7 percent or 455 workers employed in Butler County commute from outside counties. The most common county is Colfax County (4.1 percent or 119 people) followed by Saunders, Seward, and Platte counties. The data also shows one out-of-state location.

Commuter In Work in Butler County - Live Elsewhere (2000)			
Where Live	Where Work	Count	%
Butler Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	2,443	84.3%
Colfax Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	119	4.1%
Saunders Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	74	2.6%
Seward Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	55	1.9%
Platte Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	51	1.8%
Polk Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	42	1.4%
Lancaster Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	37	1.28%
Saline Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	19	0.66%
Dodge Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	15	0.52%
Madison Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	14	0.48%
Laramie Co. WY	Butler Co. NE	11	0.38%
Douglas Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	10	0.35%
Merrick Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	6	0.21%
Nance Co. NE	Butler Co. NE	2	0.07%
Total:		2,898	
Working inside county, but living outside:		455	15.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Journey to Work, 2000

Recreation:

David City, the county seat, has one private golf course, two public tennis courts, a newly opened family aquatic center, the Thorpe Opera House, the David City Auditorium, three public parks, and two public camp grounds. The nearest public access to a lake or river is 35 miles away, which allows camping, swimming, fishing, motorized boats, and water skiing/tubing. (Nebraska Community, "Fast Facts" Profile, Nebraska Public Power District)

Schools:

Within Butler County there are fourteen (14) public schools and three (3) private schools. Within the public school districts are: Abie Public School, Abie; Bellwood Elementary School, Bellwood; Bruno Public School, Bruno; David City Public Schools,

David City; East Butler Public Schools, Brainard and Dwight; Linwood Public School, Linwood; Rising City Public Schools, Rising City; Surprise Public School, Surprise. The private schools are: Aquinas High School, David City; and, St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School, David City.

David City is thirty miles from Platte Central Community College. Many Butler County high school graduates attend the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Concordia University in Seward, and Southeast Community Colleges in both Lincoln and Milford.

Section V

Identified Priority Areas

The Community Team has established the following juvenile service priorities for the years 2009-2011:

Priority 1

Continue to strengthen the existing Juvenile Diversion Program

General Information: In November, 2008, Butler County began referring youths who were first-time offenders, charged primarily with status offenses to the newly developed Juvenile Diversion Program. During the first year of operation twenty-five (25) youth were referred to the diversion program. Twenty-one (21) successfully completed the program. The diversion program has proved to be a valuable resource to Butler County, and to the criminal justice system in the County. Since the program has been in place for only one-year, it is too early to provide any statistically significant recidivism data; however, several studies of juvenile diversion programs nationwide have shown that diversion programs with flexible approaches (tailored programs for each participant) have been effective in reducing recidivism. A study of the Dallas Police Department's juvenile diversion program for first time offenders revealed a significantly lower recidivism rate among the 20,000 youth who had completed the program (20.7%) than among the youths in the comparison group (64%). The Dallas juvenile diversion program is similar to the Butler County Juvenile Diversion Program in that both use a behavioral contracting program focused on teaching youths interpersonal and responsible decision-making skills, and providing parents with information on effective parenting, discipline, and home management skills. The Butler County Attorney's Office is responsible for the operation of the Juvenile Diversion Program. A part-time program coordinator is responsible for the daily operation of the program.

Priority 1 Continue to strengthen the existing Juvenile Diversion Program					
Strategies/ Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Desired Outcomes
1. Continue to maintain a comprehensive juvenile diversion program.	1. Research existing diversion programs and pre-trial diversion concepts to compare with the Butler County program. 2. Attend training conferences and network with other juvenile diversion program officials.	Butler County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator	On-going research throughout the life of the comprehensive plan.	1. Investment of time for research and networking. 2. Funding to attend training conference.	1. Ensure that the option of juvenile diversion is offered to the appropriate individuals. 2. Help to ensure that those who can be diverted from the juvenile justice system are, thereby ensuring limited funds are spent on those who are in need of more intensive services/supervision.
2. Determine if the recidivism rate for individuals enrolled in juvenile diversion is lower than for those individuals who have not gone through a diversion program.	1. Continuing research of criminal justice databases to identify those individuals who successfully complete the diversion program and then re-offend.	Butler County Juvenile Diversion Program Coordinator	On-going research throughout the life of the comprehensive plan.	1. Investment of time for research. 2. Computer and software for maintenance of database.	1. Produce an evidence-based study to demonstrate whether or not the juvenile diversion program is effective in deterring individuals from committing additional law violations.

Priority 2
Address youth substance abuse issues

General Information: Youth substance abuse in Butler County is a problem. In the 2007 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Student Survey, Butler County youth reported the following:

- Lifetime alcohol use for 10th grade students was 69.2% (59.9% for the state).
 - Alcohol use in the past 30 days for 10th grade students was 41% (28% for the state).
 - Eighty-nine percent (89%) of high school seniors in Butler County had consumed alcohol in their life (74% state average).
 - Forty-eight percent (48%) of 12th graders reported having consumed alcohol in the past 30 days (40% state average).
 - Twelve percent (12%) of 10th grade students reported having used inhalants in their life.
 - 12th graders lifetime use of methamphetamine stood at 3.9% as opposed to a state aver of 2.2%.
 - 3.4% of the sixth graders surveyed reported having abused prescription drugs.
 - Nearly a third (29.9%) of high school seniors in Butler County reported having driven a vehicle after consuming alcohol.
 - 6.5% of high school seniors reported that they had sold illegal drugs at school.
- 10.2% of the surveyed 10th graders advised that they had been drunk or high at school in the past year.

Priority 2 Address youth substance abuse issues					
Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Desired Outcomes
1. Implement evidence-based strategies and policy changes aimed at deterring youth substance abuse, especially underage drinking.	1. Develop and/or strengthen age identification policies and training for employees of retail alcohol establishments. 2. Adopt a "teen party" ordinance. 3. Adopt a "drink at home – stay at home" ordinance to restrict underage youth from avoiding arrest for Minor-In-Consumption of Alcohol. 4. Conduct compliance checks of business to monitor the sale of alcohol to minors. 5. Educate parents on youth substance abuse issues through newsletters	Butler County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator Butler County Community Coalition Area law enforcement agencies Butler County Attorney Area school administrators	On-going	1. Investment of time to research and write ordinances and policies. 2. Funding for newsletters and bulletins. 3. Funding to conduct compliance inspections.	1. Reduce availability of alcohol to underage persons. 2. Through parent education make parents more aware of the dangers posed by youth substance abuse. 3. Develop standardized ordinances which will aid law enforcement personnel in enforcing liquor laws. 4. Standardized school policies and procedures for penalties for alcohol and other drug use and possession on school property or

	and bulletins distributed through area schools.				at school functions.
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Priority 3

Enhance Parenting Skills and Parental Involvement at Schools

General Information: Parental involvement means many different things to different people. The term “parental involvement” is variable, and therefore covers a wide range of activities. Most parents would consider what they are doing with their children is all that is required, or is necessary. Many parents have little understanding of how important their role of supporting their child to do well in school, and many feel that they play a secondary role to teachers. Telling parents that they are not doing enough and that they “must” or “should” be more involved, is likely to be offensive to most parents. Parents of defiant, misbehaving adolescents are often feeling angry, guilty, and perhaps most importantly, helpless. The Community Team felt that particular effort needed to be made to expand parenting education and support services that would be aimed at protecting the well-being of Butler County youth. These efforts would be designed to increase the strength and stability of families, increase parental confidence and competence, and ultimately affording children a stable and supportive home environment.

The Juvenile Diversion Program has an existing Parenting Group and the goal is to offer to present the same program as requested by area schools.

Priority 3 Enhance Parenting Skills and Parental Involvement at Schools					
Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Desired Outcomes
1. Regular meetings of the LB1184 team to discuss juveniles in need.	1. Monthly meetings scheduled. 2. Input from team members to identify juveniles needing to be discussed.	Butler County Attorney	On-going.	1. Investment of time by individuals attending meetings.	1. An awareness among a variety of juvenile specialists of those juveniles in the county who are experiencing significant difficulties, whether it is at home, in school, or in the community. 2. Referrals made for youth who have special needs.
2. Parenting group for parents who seek assistance.	1. Development of a formal curriculum for the group. 2. Publicize the existence of the group.	Butler County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator Community coalition members and school officials.	06-01-09 thru 12-31-11	Funding to pay group facilitator. Funding for class materials.	The availability of parenting education and support services would increase the stability of families, increase parental confidence and competence,

					and ultimately afford children a safe and supportive home environment.
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